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19 November 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Intelligence
Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : NRO Briefing on Satellite Reconnaissance Program

REFERENCE : a. USIB-D-41, 15/22, dated 15 November 1963
b. Memorandum for DCI from DD/I and DD/S&T,
dated 12 September 1963, subject: Future
Satellite Reconnaissance Program

1. According to reference a., Dr. McMillan briefed the USIB on 14 November 1963 concerning the forthcoming satellite reconnaissance program. The last sentence of reference b. is as follows:

"Mr. McCone stated, with the concurrence of the Board, that the future program as presented appeared to meet USIB requirements."

2. We have no direct knowledge of the specific details of the program presented at this briefing by Dr. McMillan but understand that it included one CORONA "J" per month during 1964 available for firing. If the second package of the CORONA "J" can be made to work properly, and if all "J"s are used, this will result in giving us approximately twice as much photography as we need of this type. (See reference b.)

3. We feel that it is an unsound procedure for the Director to be put into the position of appearing to approve a program on the basis of a briefing without there being an adequate opportunity for recommendations by his staff. We would like to suggest that the addressees might raise this problem at an early meeting with the Director to see if it was actually his intent to give formal approval to the program as presented or whether we may yet have an opportunity to examine it in greater detail.

JAMES J. HITCHCOCK
Chief

DD/I Collection Guidance Staff

NRO review(s) completed.

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UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: Briefing on Satellite Reconnaissance Program

1. At the USIB meeting on 14 November 1963, Dr. McMillan, Director, NRO, (D/NRO), in response to a request by the Chairman, USIB, briefed the Board on the Satellite Reconnaissance Program. The D/NRO displayed and explained a chart covering future schedules as currently planned, and another showing past experience. In regard to the latter, he explained, to the degree known, causes for partial or complete failures.

2. The Chairman commented on the excellence of the D/NRO's presentation and the complexity of the program, noting that successes achieved since June were very encouraging. Mr. McCone stated, with the concurrence of the Board, that the future program as presented appeared to meet USIB requirements.

Executive Secretary

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